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Nicaragua

# HACIENDA SANTA LUZ

The farm embraces innovative varietals, ecological processing, and forest preservation





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# HACIENDA SANTA LUZ



<i>Farm</i>	Hacienda Santa Luz
<i>Location</i>	Matagalpa
<i>Altitude</i>	700 - 900 masl
<i>Size</i>	159 hectares, 85 hectares under coffee
<i>Varietals</i>	Caturra, Catuai, Obata, Marsellesa, Tupi, Paraiso, H3, Java, Geisha, ++
<i>Processes</i>	Washed, Natural, Honey, Yeast inoculation
<i>Harvest</i>	December - March
<i>Certifications</i>	Rainforest Alliance

Hacienda Santa Luz was one of two farms bought as abandoned lots back in 2003, with a long-term view to re- establishing coffee plantations but in a sustainable way. This has involved not only the replanting of coffee trees with new and diverse coffee varieties but also establishing a professional organisation. All operations including export are handled directly on the farm.

105 hectares are identified as being suitable for coffee growing. As a rainforest certified farm though, this is not a simple expansion at the cost of the environment. Embracing new higher yielding varieties or with improved disease resistance is also suitable for increasing yield.

Pink Bourbon, SL28, Centroamericano and more all make an appearance in the fields. An ecological processing plant was built to reduce the impact on the environment. 30 hectares of farm is preserved as forest.

The mountains of Matagalpa provide a unique microclimate for the farm that Ricardo Herrera as CEO and General Manager Marco Tulio Gonzalez are able to manage with a team of 50 permanent workers and an additional 400 seasonal pickers. Sr Herrera brings previous operations expertise from Colombia and Costa Rica whilst Sr Gonzalez obtained an MBA in industrial engineering to really bring another level of insight to the processing.

